

The Institute Monthly



FOR OCTOBER 1916

Published by the West Virginia Collegiate
Institute

The
West Virginia Collegiate Institute

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BYRD PRILLERMAN, A. M., President,
 Institute, W. Va.

The Institute Monthly

Devoted to the Interests of The West Virginia Collegiate Institute
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The Institute Monthly

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Volume IX.

OCTOBER 1916

Number I.

EDITORIALS

FOR ANOTHER SCHOLASTIC YEAR, THE MONTHLY TAKES UP THE BURDEN of advancing the interests of the West Virginia Collegiate Institute. To its faithful little coterie of readers—subscribers, exchanges, and even those who borrow it from their neighbors—we extend greetings. WE ARE CHERISHING A FONDER HOPE THAN EVER, THAT OUR MISSION may prove more productive of creditable results to the school, to the state, to humanity. ¶ The crowded halls of the Institute, due in some measure to the publicity, that we have helped to scatter thru out the state concerning the School and its work, is evidence indisputable, that The Monthly is succeeding in a part of its design. ¶ As set forth in previous editorials, we want our columns to be the commons, where alumni, and alumnae, no matter where they may be in service for human uplift, may meet to exchange ideas, give expression to some useful thought, or inform each other what you are doing in the world of action.

WE ARE ALSO DESIROUS THAT OUR FRIENDS AND WELL-WISHERS, MAY USE our columns in any way that will aid, or promote the work we are trying to do.

YOU ARE OUT ON THE FIELD. ¶ YOU ARE PRINCIPALS AND TEACHERS in our state public schools. ¶ You are the talented tenth in the professional and business activities of the state. ¶ You are the parents and guardians of the youth whose lives we hope to shape for usefulness.

TO YOU ALSO IS OUR GREETING AND AN INVITATION TO WORK WITH US thru our columns or otherwise, for the success of those purposes for which this institution was founded.

COPIES OF THE MONTHLY WILL ONLY BE SENT TO BONA FIDE SUBSCRIBERS.

AS IN PREVIOUS YEARS, WE SHALL TRY TO PRESENT A RECORD OF things and events bearing interest to those interested in the school. Our efforts to uplift, and the advancement of methods for the same, will also find expression here.

AT THIS JUNCTURE, OUR ENROLLMENT IS 368. THIS IS NOT THE END of the first month of school, and the enrollment is only fourteen less than the enrollment of 1915-16, exclusive of the summer school enrollment of 1915. An enrollment of 400 is expected. ¶ The College department has an enrollment of thirty in its second year of existence. The quality of young men and women who make up the membership of the Freshman and Sophomore classes, is the same in mental, moral, and physical attributes as that possessed by the young men and women, who have hitherto gone out of the state to secure what the state is now offering at home. ¶ We are endeavoring to give a college course in vocational training. This is open to both sexes, and equal emphasis is placed upon the requirement of efficiency in the vocational or academic departments of the course. ¶ It is conceded, that the earning power of the Negro laborer of West Virginia, is greater than that of any other state in the union. The governing authorities of the state, have evinced such interest in the education of Negro youth, that the management of this school, its friends and patrons thru out the State, feel that the institution has greater opportunity for usefulness than most other Negro schools in the country. ¶ By the addition of four new teachers, every department of the school has been strengthened. The Normal Course has been so adjusted that it is open only to those who have completed work in the minimum, equivalent to that done in a four year course high school. It now requires two years to complete the course.

THE NEW ADDITIONS TO THE FACULTY

The faculty has been increased and strengthened by the addition of four new teachers. That wisdom of selection as to fitness and ability was exercised so as to insure helpful aids to the faculty of the institution.

Miss Florence D. Coffey of Brooklyn was elected to succeed Mrs. M. M. Lowry, resigned, as teacher of plain sewing and millinery. Miss Coffey is a graduate of Pratt Institute and has studied at Columbia University.

Miss Estella Lee of Athens, Ohio, and a recent graduate of the Ohio University, with the degree of B. Sc. in Home Economics, is added to the Department of Science as assistant. Miss Lee is a teacher of some experience, and much benefit to the department is expected from her connection with it.

Mr. Gideon E. Smith of Norfolk, Virginia is the new Commandant of Cadets, and teacher in chemical science. Mr. Smith is a graduate of Hampton Institute, Ferris Institute of Michigan and a B. Sc. in Agri-

culture of the class of 1916 in Michigan Agricultural College.

Mr. Smith, it will be recalled, is one of the few Negroes of the United States, who has made his name a phrase to charm with where ever foot ball is known. He has been picked by northern newspapers as one of the few All-Western tackles.

To this eminence he adds the more commendable virtues of a gentleman and a scholar.

Mr. L. Leonard of Taladega, Alabama, and a graduate of Taladega College, succeeds Mr. N. A. Murray, resigned, as assistant in Agriculture. Mr. Leonard has studied at Massachusetts Agricultural College, and at Cornell University. He is a teacher of experience, and promises to add to that department of the school with which he is connected.

MR. N. A. MURRAY, EX-AGRICULTURAL ASSISTANT
GOES TO BRANCH NORMAL, PINE BLUFF,
ARKANSAS

Mr. N. A. Murray, late assistant in agriculture here, yielded to the call of a larger field of labor, severed his relations with our school, and accepted, the directorship of Agriculture, at the State School for Negroes at Pine Bluff, Arkansas.

The departure of Mr. Murray was regretted, as he was well liked by all. Mr. Murray had recently completed and moved into a very nice home here.

His success is desired by all who knew him.

THE WEST VIRGINIA SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION
AND THE NEGRO

By Pres. Byrd Prillermay, Institute, W. Va.

Mr. President, Delegates of the West Virginia Sunday School Convention, Ladies and Gentlemen:—I bring you greetings from the West Virginia Collegiate Institute, the West Virginia Baptist Sunday School Convention, and the 70,000 loyal, patriotic negro citizens of West Virginia. We are proud of our state. The citizens of West Virginia are to be congratulated on the wisdom and statesmanship displayed in dealing with the race question. In this respect West Virginia has set an example for all the other states in the Union. In the early formation of our state our law makers saw the wisdom and justice of providing facilities for the training of our Negro youth. Since that time our statesmen have made provision for secondary, vocational, and collegiate

training by the establishment and maintenance of the West Virginia Collegiate Institute and the school at Bluefield.

Since emancipation, the members of my race have made wonderful progress in education, home-building, church-building, and finance. Thirty years ago there was not a professionally trained Negro in all the state. Now there are more than thirty college graduates teaching in our schools, twenty lawyers and sixty doctors practicing their profession. According to the report of our State Superintendent, 67 per cent. of the 426 negro teachers of our state hold first-grade certificates. Among our most distinguished Sunday School teachers in this country must be classed Booker T. Washington. He became a Sunday School teacher in Malden. Our development along all other lines, however, has been greater than that of training religious leaders. The greatest need of the race in this state today is competent, consecrated Christian leadership.

In our efforts to prepare our students for positions of leadership in the West Virginia Collegiate Institute, we have thought it necessary to emphasize the importance of moral and religious training. For I believe with Carlyle that "a man's religion is the chief thing about him." We give our students a fine opportunity for academic and vocational training. We require each student who enters the Institution to learn to use his hands at some useful occupation at the same time he secures the highest literary training of which he is capable. In order to develop the moral and religious character of our students, we require them to attend Sabbath School and prayer meeting. Each Sabbath morning at 9:15 o'clock one may see them, more than 300 in number, marching to Sabbath School to the strains of martial music. The school band is preceded in its march by the color-bearer carrying the American flag. After the general assembly in the chapel, the classes are dismissed to their several rooms, where they are taught by members of the faculty and students who have completed the teacher-training course. In the Sabbath School we use the nonsectarian publications. The object of the Sunday School is to make the student acquainted with the Bible and lead him to become a Christian.

On Wednesday and Sabbath evenings, one may find the same group of young people marching to the prayer and praise service. This service consists of Scripture readings, prayers, Scripture quotations, hymns of praise, and short talks. Here all student have Bibles alike, and read in concert the Scripture lesson.

The question may arise in your minds as to what is the effect of this compulsory attendance. The best answer I can give to this question is found in the response the students are making to the call for

voluntary Bible study. About four years ago Miss Mary Eubank, our Superintendent of Home Economics, started with a class of 20 girls. They used Møninger's Training for Service. In 1914 they completed their course, and we had our first Bible school commencement, at which eight, including the teacher, received their diplomas from your Association. The last school year 150 were enrolled, and 19 completed the course. For the present school year, 240 have enrolled, and 43 are candidates for graduation the 21st of this month. There are 10 classes, taught by the members of the faculty, and advanced students who have completed the teacher-training course. These classes recite on Wednesday evening and at various times during the Sabbath day. The Bible study is wholly voluntary and is conducted in such a way as not to interfere with the literary and industrial work of the institution.

Miss Bettie Perry, a member of the present senior class and a graduate from the teacher-training course of last year, has organized a Bible class of 35 at Raymond City. She goes home twice a month to look after this class. Her traveling expenses are borne by her parents. Some of the members of the faculty and teachers' wives who were most indifferent about Bible study have now become among the most enthusiastic Bible students at the institution.

Miss Mary Eubank, our leader in this work, has recently accepted an invitation from the International Committee of the Young Women's Christian Association to teach a Bible class at the Conference to be held at Spelman Seminary, Atlanta, Georgia, May 25th-June 6th, 1916.

The Negro's interest in the work of the West Virginia Sunday School Association dates from the time you declared a special interest in him. This at once attracted his attention. For ever since a party of Negroes took that memorable trip in a Dutch vessel with a party of white men from Africa to Jamestown, Va., in 1619, the Negro becomes suspicious when the white man shows any special interest in his welfare. Herein lies one of our most serious problems. The Negro is suspicious of the white man and the white man is suspicious of him. The best way to convince the Negro of your interest in him is to manifest the same kind of genuine interest that has been shown in him by this Association. You have impressed him with your interest by putting a special worker of his own race in the field in the person of Rev. E. C. Page, by making it possible for Rev. H. C. Lyman, D. D., an international worker, to hold a Sunday School Institute at the Summer School for teachers at the West Virginia Collegiate Institute for two sessions; and by having the students of that Institution attend your last Convention in Charleston in a body. But your most genuine interest has been impressed by Mr. Arthur T. Arnold, your scholarly,

consecrated secretary, coming among us and helping us, and by the Sunday School Institute he had conducted at the West Virginia Collegiate Institute last January. It is generally thought by teachers and students that this was the most helpful week in the history of our school.

It has not been the practice of your Secretary and other workers of this Association to grow despondent over the evils the Negro brought with him from heathenism through slavery. But they have heeded the injunction that the strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak. I agree with Macaulay when he says that "there is only one cure for the evils which newly acquired freedom produces; and that cure is freedom. When a prisoner first leaves his cell he cannot bear the light of day; he is unable to discriminate colors, or recognize faces. But the remedy is not to remand him to his dungeon, but to accustom him to the rays of the sun. The blaze of truth and liberty may at first dazzle and bewilder nations which have become half-blind in the house of bondage. But let them gaze on, and they will soon be able to bear it. If men are to wait for liberty till they become wise and good in slavery, they may indeed wait forever.

The Negro has proved his loyalty to this country by his devotion to her best interests. Who ever heard a member of this race inciting a strike or leading a mob? Crispus Attucks, a Negro slave, shed the first blood for American liberty. The Negro soldier has fought on the battle fields of every war this country has waged in defense of human liberty. To right his wrongs, the Indian uses the tomahawk and scalping-knife, the Frenchman applies the torch, the Russian uses dynamite. But the American Negro has fought, bled, and died for the flag that enslaved him. "The sweetest song in human story will tell you how, when thundering guns mowed white men down on field of glory, he stayed to save the helpless ones."--*Mountain State Bulletin*

GREAT IMPROVEMENTS AROUND THE SCHOOL

To the old grads of our school, who have been absent from their Alma Mater for many years, strange and inspiring would be the view of the present status of the school and the vicinage if they would but quit their places in the rush of life, and revisit the scenes of their early endeavors to secure an education.

The most of this change, and we might say, practically all of it, has happened in the last twelve years of the school's existence. The cheering thought is, that all of the great improvements in the vicinity have been made on account of the presence of the Institution, and the influ-

ences it has created.

Twelve years ago, there were all told in the vicinity of the school, sixteen houses. These, being separated by large intervening plots of land, were not very conspicuous.

To-day, when this is read by you, there will be added to this number, thirty two dwelling houses and stores. The recent additions are as pretentious in size and accommodations, as the average home in the Capital City.

Of these homes, seventeen are owned or controlled by the graduates of this Institution. Interest in securing home sites near the school, and erecting houses thereon, is increasing every day. All available land has been secured by speculators, and the location of large manufactories near, is making Institute an ideal place to live.

Especially is this true, to parents of the coal fields, who are seeking to educate their children. To all such, an inviting field is offered here.

As long as the state remains a sovereign commonwealth, the School will stand, and each year, it will increase in number, and capacity for useful service.

THE COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE OFFERS DECIDED ADVANTAGES TO WEST VIRGINIA NEGROES

[The following was taken from the Charleston Post, August 2, 1916.]

The great number of new students applying for admission to the West Virginia Collegiate Institute, at Institute, indicates that the school will be full at the opening, September 20, said President Byrd Prillerman, of that leading institution for Negro youth. Much interest centers in the new college department, which was first opened last year. Many of the new students are applying for admission to this department of the school. It is said there is no other institution in the United States especially for the training of Negro youth that gives a college course in vocation-

al training or that places the same emphasis on vocational training as is placed on the academic studies.

For this reason, Negro students who have wanted a college course in home economics, agriculture or any other vocational subject were compelled to attend some college or university in the North or West. This places the young Negro seeking such an education to a great disadvantage, for the reason that he cannot usually secure dormitory accommodations at these institutions, his expenses are extremely heavy, and he is in a great measure deprived of the advantages of

social life.

There are several graduates of the collegiate institute pursuing vocational courses in Northern colleges that would have taken the course at their own state school had such provision been made at the time of their graduation. There is no other negro college closer than 200 miles of this institution.

"The earning power of the negro laborer of West Virginia is greater than that of any other state in the Union, said Dr. Prillerman. A large number of the Negro population of West Virginia is in the coal fields. Since they do not find much opportunity for investment of their earnings in real estate, they are willing to invest in the education of their children.

"The governor, the state board of control, the state board of regents and other state authorities have shown such interest in the education of our Negro youth that the administration of the West Va. Collegiate Institute and Negro citizens of the state generally feel that the institution has greater opportunity for usefulness than most other negro schools in the country."

When President Prillerman took charge of this institution seven years ago, its largest enrollment to that time had been 235 students, with a faculty of 22 teachers. This year it enrolled 382 students, and had a faculty of 25 teachers. For the year 1908-1909, the state

appropriation for salary and wages was \$17,450; for 1915-1916, it was \$21,500. In these seven years, the student body has increased 62 1-2 per cent, while the faculty has increased in number only four and one-sixth per cent, and the state appropriation for salary and wages has increased only 23 1-5 per cent. All the departments of the school have been strengthened, one year has been added to the academic course, the name of the school changed, the college department added, a summer school for teachers maintained each year.

ATHLETICS

The foot ball squads are doing preliminary practice under Coach Gardner. It is very gratifying to see the number of young men, who are trying to make the squad.

The games scheduled for this year are not many, but high grade.

Manager Brown has secured dates with some of the country's best school teams as the appended schedule will show. The Collegiate Institute has permanently put herself on the foot ball map of Negro Colleges.

It is to be regretted that our position geographically, offers almost prohibitive reasons against the playing of games with suitable schools.

The management has tried to secure games with the teams of State University of Louisville, Lincoln Institute, and Frankfort Nor-

mal, but up to this time no definite information has been received.

Negotiations for the following games have been completed; October 13, Charleston Independents, at Institute.

October 28, Fisk University at Nashville, Tennessee.

November 14, Howard University of Washington, D. C. at Institute.

Thanksgiving Day, Wilberforce University at Wilberforce Ohio.

SCHOOL ORGANIZATION

At this time, the work of the various religious and secular societies of the school, has been organized, and is progressing nicely.

As previously, Miss Eubank, and her assistants are seeking to enlist the active participation of every student and teacher in systematic Bible study.

The recent visit of Reverend M. Brown, international secretary of the Y. M. C. A. among colored people, has served to enliven the movement locally.

The work of the Y. W. C. A. is taking on added interest owing to the zeal of the officers. A very large enrollment from the new students is expected.

The joint session of the literary societies, Saturday night, October 7, was largely attended.

The program was literary, and musical, and while it was entertaining, more benefit resulting from organized training, is expected

from future meetings.

Following are the officers of the societies and classes for this semester:

LITERARY SOCIETIES

B. T. WASHINGTON

Pres. Bernard Brown
V. Pres. Robert Edwards
Sec. Walter Clarkson

PHYLLIS WHEATLEY

Pres. Lorenda Davis
Sec. Anna Garrison

COLLEGE

Pres. A. B. Cunningham
V. Pres. Henry Davis
Sec. Inez Ward

DOUGLASS

Pres. Roscoe Peters
V. Pres. George Twist
Sec. Irene Bowe

Y. M. C. A.

Pres. J. A. Kinney
V. Pres. Dennis Smith
Sec. Erskine Jackson

Y. W. C. A.

Pres. Skipwith Campbell
V. Pres. Florence Edwards
Sec. Thelma Calhoun

BIBLE CLASS

ALPHA

Miss M. E. Eubank, teacher, and Director of Bible Class work.

ST. PAUL

Pres. C. E. Jones, teacher
Sec. Erskine Jackson
Walter Clarkson

JUNIOR

Pres. W. W. Jackson, teacher
Sec.

CLASSES

SOPHOMORE

Pres. Emma Wade
Sec. Skipwith Campbell

FRESHMAN

Pres. William Houston
Sec. Sedonia Rotan

FOURTH YEAR

Pres. Joseph Peters
Sec. Lorenda Davis

THIRD YEAR

Pres. Bernard Brown
Sec. Freda Campbell

SECOND YEAR

Pres. Florence Edwards
Sec. Ethel Wade

FIRST YEAR

Pres. (Not Elected)
Sec. (Not Elected)

THINKING

By
Walter D. Wintle

If you think you are beaten, you are,
If you think you dare not, you dont.
If you'd like to win, but you think you can't
It's almost a cinch you won't.
If you think you'll lose, you're lost,
For out of the world we find
Success begins with a fellow's will,
It's all in the state of mind.
If you think you're outclassed, you are;
You've got to think high to rise,
You've got to be sure of yourself before
You can ever win a prize.
Life's battles don't always go
To the stronger or faster man;
But soon or late the man who wins,
Is the one who thinks he can.

AROUND THE INSTITUTE

Mrs. W. W. Jackson, and daughter, wife and child of Professor W. W. Jackson came to Institute September 27, to make their home.

Professor and his family have moved into the house of Professor Murray in Institute City.

Madme. L. Leonard accompanied her husband to Institute. Mrs. Leonard is a normal graduate of Taladega College. Since coming here, she has enrolled in the commercial Department of the school.

Mrs. Leota Farrar Smith, wife of Professor C. W. Smith, and a teacher for years in the Charleston schools, has enrolled in the Junior Commercial Class.

Mrs. Mae Jones has accepted the position of teacher in Grant Town, West Virginia. Mrs. Jones is a graduate of this school, in the class of 1913, and is a teacher of experience.

Reverend J. B. Hubbard of Montgomery, and Supervisor W. W. Sanders of the State Department of Education were the feature speakers the morning of September 22. The addresses of both gentlemen were interesting and were given much attention.

Mr. Alonzo Ellis, for five years stenographer to President Prillerman, accepted a more lucrative position under President Wallace Battle in Okolona Industrial School, Okolona, Mississippi.

Mr. Ellis' duties will be similar to

those in which he rendered such efficient service here.

He left for his new field of labor September 23. His departure was much regretted, as Mr. Ellis has a host of friends who will remember his genial disposition for a long time.

Rev. Mordecai W. Johnson, international secretary of the Y. M. C. A. came to the Institute Oct. 2, in the line of his official itinerancy. Mr. Johnson is a graduate of Morehouse College, and Rochester Theological Seminary. He delivered several sermons to the student body, and by personal talks revived and systematized the work of the local body. Thru his talks, all the school activities of a religious nature were revived.

The coming of such men and women to the school is always welcomed, and every opportunity is given to have the work they represent enter into the life of the student body.

Reverend Doctor's N. W. Brown and Reverdy C. Ransom, respectively of Bluefield W. Va., and New York City, were the representatives of the A. M. E. Church Annual Conference that convened in Charleston September 27, to visit the Institute the morning of September 29.

The president of the institution introduced the divines to the student body, and the addresses delivered by both were not only inspiring, but gems of eloquence

rarely heard.

On the invitation of the head of the school, Reverend L. A. McGee, was sent by Right Reverend Bishop Shaffer, A. M. E. Bishop of the West Virginia diocese, to preach to the student body Sunday evening, October 1. The chapel was crowded, and the youthful preacher was given the best of attention. His sermon was well delivered, and was much appreciated.

Rev. McGee, was accompanied by Reverend and Mrs. Jenkins of Weston. Rev. Jenkins accepted the invitation to make a few remarks at the conclusion of the sermon.

Miss. Rimatha Ford of Jackson, Ohio, was the month end guest of

Professor and Mrs. Spurlock.

Mr. D. C. Dean Jr., an Academic and Commercial graduate of this school, and at present a bookkeeper for the Southern Aid Insurance Company of Richmond, Virginia, was a pleasant visitor here September 22 and 23. Our Dave was royally welcomed. He expressed himself as agreeably surprised at our present status, renewed his covenant. Mr. Dean and Fulks, both employees in Richmond, are influencing students from Richmond, to come to us.

Reverend D. C. Gregory late of Beckley, has moved his family to the village. Madame Gregory, her son and daughter have enrolled as students.



THE W. V. C. I. STUDENT PRESS